

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
6/16/77

Ms. Amy Hirsch
Soc. America
ABC-TV
7 W 66 St.
New York, N.Y. 10023

Dear Amy,

Please excuse this paper and the typing. The paper is a partial answer to the unexpected question I was asked, how do I make out? It is out-of-date paper for a special kind of copying machine. I was given four entire cases of it. While it lasts I'll buy no bond. Fatigue is not a fair explanation of my typing. It is always terrible.

While the form letter I ~~wrote~~ was given directs that my expenses be sent to Jim Burns because some of them may be out of the ordinary and because I want to write you anyway I'm doing this through you.

In addition to the air fare of which you made a record my costs in changing my arrangements, including both cabs to speed up and phones to California and home and Washington, come to about \$25.00.

My extra meal costs were about \$8.50. Both sums include tips.

To make the plane to New York I asked a friend to drive me, to be certain. I just did make it, too. Because he is a friend I paid him nothing. However, he took off from work so I'd like to. Car fare is about \$15.00. I'd like to send this to him. If you include it please include a note because by the time I receive the check this will be out of my mind and I would not want to forget to send it to him. It is only a gesture. The cost to him is much greater.

The cab from the airport to Jim Lesar's in Washington was \$7.00, including tip.

I paid Jim Lesar \$25 for driving me home. A cab would have cost about thrice this.

Not counting the \$15, this comes to \$65.50.

Because we were talking I did not catch all of Governor Blanton. However, I did hear him deny what I'd told David Hartman about what Tennessee law permits. While perfection is not a human condition I do strive for accuracy and I never knowingly mislead anyone to achieve any objective. According to the Tennessee Commission of Corrections as of December 1973 the law was as I represented.

Because of your subject interest I tell you a story which provides the means of ascertaining the truth. At that time there was a secret effort to transfer James Earl Ray to the Springfield federal medical facility. Prisoners have built up what may in some cases be a mythology about it. But I know of cases of prisoners refusing to take medicine because they feared mind-bending and toying. Jimmy did. He started doing crazy things. So I checked the law with a Tennessee criminal lawyer and tipped two reporter friends off. I suggested they ask two questions of the State official and the man who had headed the D.J. Criminal Division, O'Connor: had the feds offered Ray a deal in 1970 and did Tenn. law permit transferring a state prisoner to federal jurisdiction. (Some states do.) The Tenn. answer was "So you caught on." O'Connor said it was not quite that way. I have the records that mean it was, which is extraneous. I'm merely telling you. Ray discussed it with me, in addition. The two reporters are Larry Finley of the Chicago Daily News (312-321-2121) and Paul Valentine of the Wash. Post (202/223-6000).

While I do not recall a denial of what I said about Percy Foreman, I felt I was not believed. I am absolutely without doubt that there will be relevant FBI records relating

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to both Foreman and Bill Huie in the thousand or so pages the FBI disgorged in my absence. I will delay mailing this until I can go over them. When I do I'll include FBI proofs of the accuracy of what I said. These will tell you that the FBI also knew that Foreman was conducting no investigation and Huie had no interest in Ray but was trying to buy a confession, stupidly not seeing to it that Ray got a penny. In fact Ray did not get even a single penny from that utterly corrupt deal no system of justice can survive. I do not recall if it was David Hartman or Steve Bell who seemed to have doubts. You can if you'd like give this to either or both, with one restriction: no use. The reason is that I do not want it to get around that after eight years of difficult effort I am obtaining such records. The nuts and self-seekers inevitably make sensational one-shot use or more commonly misuse. When I have all these records they will be deposited in a university system, available to all under the supervision of an informed and responsible historian. All my records are going to the Wisconsin university system, initial deposit at the Stevens Point branch because of Professor David Wrona. (They already have nine file drawers of my investigative-reporting days pre-World War II and some of the more recent materials I have been able to duplicate.)

I'm sorry there was no more time for us to talk. From prior experience I believe my records are rich in literary materials some of which are at least suitable for TV. While I have no TV experience other than as a guest on talk shows I was a syndicated by-line feature writer about 1930 and have radio news and special-events experience. One example is 2,000-2,500 new pages of CIA materials on behavioral modification. I already had about this much. I also have a source who was part of this kind of work many years ago. I send him duplicates of all that I obtain. I do not now have time to go over it. A year or so ago I registered a script summary.

David Hartman wanted to talk more but the limousine service precluded it. Please tell him that if he wants to pursue the question of the fatal King shot to phone me when he is free. Perhaps more persuasive that what I can say is the expert testimony I arranged for the 1974 evidentiary hearing.

Whether or not you accept them my offers were as sincere as they were spontaneous. This is because of the little and to me impressive and cherished little human touches. You did not have to get up early to come and pick me up. It is a gesture I appreciate. David did not have to apologize for being pressed for time because he had to take his wife to the obstetrician. He could have said he was busy, or that he had to take his wife to the doctor. I'm also certain she is able to get there herself. Fame and success have not spoiled him. He is what in my old-fashioned belief a husband should be. In this brief contact with him he comes across exactly like the doctor he played for so many years, a decent human being.

Although it tired me more and has delayed my trip to the west coast I'm glad I changed my mind and went to do your show. In part this is because it is reassuring to find warm humans in a hard business. In part it is because it enabled me to try to show an appreciable number of Americans that there is a responsible, middle position on these great tragedies that few realize nullified an entire system of society. At my age and in my condition this means much, especially after the 13 years of the most disagreeable kind of work.

Hartman was unworried when I told him I believe that through Olmans ABC libelled an extremist of the right, Lester Logue. Perhaps Hartman is right. (I can also see problems for ABC in "The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald.") If he is not correct - and I think it would make an interesting show - I believe it is possible that the misquoted man, quite a character, would agree to an exclusive under certain protections. You may not know it but he took the Fifth on the 7th. He has listened to me in the past. We spent the rest of the 7th exercising our elbows. He is an authentic soldier-of-fortune, appears to have been in on plots against Castro also, was a Castro prisoner (in the same "cell" as Santo Trafficante) and is in the Warren report. My only precondition is that his lawyer be

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present and satisfied and that I be there to guard against exaggeration and untruth.

The man is Loran Eugene Hall.

He was going to meet me at the Los Angeles airport and was going to lend me his second car when I was there.

From a dependable California source I learned last night that Oltmans is back or is about to return. He is not seeking ABC out (or it alone). Now it is the President!

I left Dallas with a very poor copy of a de Bohrenschilât memo in which he included the allegation that among the pressures Oltmans applied is the homosexual. My Dallas source has a better if still unclear copy. It can be made out.

There is much that is relevant to this but I do not take more of your time or mine.

Many thanks to you all,